

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-5 are now present in the application. Claims 1-5 have been amended. Claims 1-5 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zou, U.S. Patent No. 6,550,942. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Niimi, PCT Application Publication No. WO 03/032363A1. Claims 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nelson, U.S. Patent No. 3,885,181. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lewin, U.S. Patent No. 4,575,788. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. As the Examiner will note, independent claims 1-5 have been amended to recite a combination of elements including "a light intensity measured at the two ends of said object being greater than a light intensity measured at the two ends of said lamp". Claim 2 further recites "the entire thickness of said tube at said two ends being larger than the entire thickness of said tube at said central part for refracting said light beam". Applicant respectfully submits that the above

combinations of elements as set forth in amended independent claims 1-5 are not disclosed nor suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

Claims 1 & 4

Zou discloses a linear illumination system 500 including a linear light source 502, an external reflective enclosure 504, and an array 516 with at least one optical element 518 (see FIG. 14). The purpose of the array 516 is to further shape, collimate, or focus the light emerging from the opening 508 (col. 11, lines 63-64). The external reflective enclosure 504 is to reflect the light so that the light emerges from the opening 508. However, Zou fails to teach the array 516 or the external reflective enclosure 504 is arranged so as to disperse the light from the light source to enhance the light intensity at the two ends of the object. Accordingly, Zou fails to teach “a light intensity measured at the two ends of said object being greater than a light intensity measured at the two ends of said lamp” as recited in claims 1 and 4.

Claim 2

Niimi discloses a high-voltage discharge lamp for automobile and an arc tube 2A for the high-voltage discharge lamp. The tube 2A has a thin portion 2c and a thick portion 2g (see FIG. 1), which means there are a thinner tube wall in the thin portion 2c and a thicker tube wall in the thick portion 2g. The

entire thickness of the tube 2A is still the same, no matter it is at the thin portion 2c or at the thick portion 2g. Therefore, Niimi fails to teach “the entire thickness of said tube at said two ends being larger than the entire thickness of said tube at said central part for refracting said light beam” as recited in claim 2.

In addition, Niimi only teaches how to concentrate the light from the light source by using different tube wall thickness along the tube (e.g., the brightness center (9) located at the thin portion (2c)), but fails to teach dispersing the light from the light source to enhance the light intensity at the two ends of the object. Accordingly, Niimi fails to teach “a light intensity measured at the two ends of said object being greater than a light intensity measured at the two ends of said lamp” as recited in claim 2.

Claim 3

Nelson discloses a high-pressure electric discharge lamp with a non-uniform conformation tubular envelope wall (see FIGs. 1-17). Nelson’s high-pressure electric discharge lamp only teaches controlling the polar distribution of the light emitted by the lamp (see Abstract) and fails to teach dispersing the light from the light source to enhance the light intensity at the two ends of the object. Accordingly, Nelson fails to teach “a light intensity measured at the two ends of said object being greater than a light intensity measured at the two ends of said lamp” as recited in claim 3.

Claim 5

Lewin discloses a segmented luminaire for use with HID lightbulbs, including four primary reflector sections 12-15 and two auxiliary reflector sections 19 and 20 (see FIG. 2; Abstract). The four primary reflector sections 12-15 create a square or rectangular distribution of light; the two auxiliary reflector sections 19 and 20 create an increase in the light projected along the lamp axis to compensate for the reduction in inherent lamp intensity along its axis (see Abstract). Accordingly, Lewin teaches using the primary and auxiliary reflector sections to provide an improved luminaire for producing uniform rectangular light patterns from an HID lamp source. Lewin fails to teach dispersing the light from the light source to enhance the light intensity at the two ends of the object. Accordingly, Lewin fails to teach “a light intensity measured at the two ends of said object being greater than a light intensity measured at the two ends of said lamp” as recited in claim 5.

Since Zou, Niimi, Nelson, and Lewin fail to teach each and every limitation of amended independent claims 1-5, respectively, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims clearly define over the teachings of the respective utilized references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

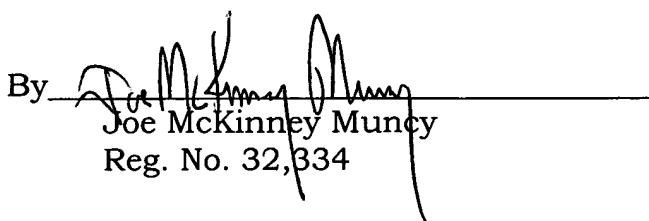
In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


Joe McKinney Muncy
Reg. No. 32,334

KM/GH/adt
4392-0136P

GJr

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000